

## LONDON

### Leftward Ho!

Harold Wilson has wasted no time in laying out England's course, and it's Leftward Ho! with a vengeance. Sitting with him in the Cabinet are the chiefs of the leftist bloc that fought the late Hugh Gaitskell, Mr. Wilson's predecessor as party leader, on a platform of unilateral nuclear disarmament and aggressive socialization—among them the powerful trade union boss Frank Cousins, and Mrs. Barbara Castle, who has always been

# Abroad

in the front rank of the kooks' yearly Aldermaston ban-the-bomb march. Among the top technical advisers with ministerial rank are scientist-novelist C. P. Snow, who confesses his indifference to a choice between the Soviet and American systems; Thomas Balogh, Hungarian-born Marxian economist; and P.M.S. Blackett, the well-known physicist and Soviet sympathizer whose name has adorned many an international Communist front. Labor has declared its immediate intention to re-nationalize the steel industry, abolish capital punishment, and clamp on rent controls and has already survived a vote on the first.

## MOSCOW

### Sin of Khrushchev

Many signs since the vanishing of Khrushchev confirm the theory that his clumsy handling of the dispute with Communist China was a principal cause of his enforced disappearance. Both the Moscow and the Peking press have muted the fierce polemic with which they had been filled for months. Each maintains its classic formulations, but rather abstractly, and in moderate tones. Both stress the "solidarity" and "unity" of the Soviet, Chinese and all the world's Communists, and the "unbreakable friendship" of the Soviet and Chinese peoples. The harsh short-wave broadcasts that had been beamed both ways across the border to the central Asian regions have been halted. Moscow-tied Bulgaria has suddenly exchanged diplomatic recognition with Peking-tied Albania. Mao is as happy as a clam, with Khrushchev out of circulation. Moscow still talks about a "preliminary conference" but has become vague about the date and purpose.

## RANGOON

### The Burmese Way

One after another the Burmese Government has taken over the banks and export-import firms, many of them foreign-owned, that are the keys to the economy, and is now absorbing retail trade, factories and some of the mines and plantations. An international businessman wrote recently: "As you know, I used to do very big business with Burma, but the position there has changed very drastically because a few months ago, D.—was arrested on political grounds and is now in protective custody. The same thing happened to some 300 businessmen, who were all arrested on the same day; and while no charges

have been preferred against them, they have been immobilized and business there has virtually come to a standstill. . . . I can only hope that in the same way that all these business people were one day arrested, they might in the same way one day be released. This is no great consolation because the chances are that when a man does become free his business will be nationalized. Still, that is how life is in Socialist countries!"

## PERTH

### South Seas Ruhr

The state of Western Australia has always been thought of as a sparsely settled farming and stock raising region. It suddenly appears to be on the verge of dramatic change. According to the (London) *Times Review of Industry and Technology*, Western Australia may now become "a new industrial power comparable only to the Ruhr and serving the vast new markets of Southeast Asia and the African continent." Minerals, including gold, have long been known to be present. There have lately been discovered the world's largest known deposit of asbestos; the third largest iron ore deposit; adequate supplies of limestone, coal, manganese and ilmenite (whence titanium oxide) for an iron and steel industry; bauxite. Discoveries elsewhere in Australia in the last few months suggest that adequate oil and natural gas are about to be added to Australia's heretofore inadequate energy sources.

## GENEVA

### Cost of Living

An International Labor Office report shows increases in the consumer price index in all major non-Communist countries over the eleven years 1952-63. Spain leads the list, with 80%. The increase was 51% in France; 48% in Japan; 39% in socialist Sweden; 38% in Italy and Britain; 20% in West Germany; 18% in Switzerland. The U.S. is near the bottom, with a 16% increase; only Belgium (15%) and Canada (14%) were lower.

## TOKYO

### Soka Gakkai

The politicalization of Buddhism seems to be spreading in Asia. By far the most dynamic movement in Japan at present is the Buddhist sect of Soka Gakkai ("Value-creating Association"), which is said to have 10 million members, with 100,000 more being added each month. Believers hold thousands of local offices throughout Japan. The Soka Gakkai faithful trace their beliefs to a True Buddha of the 13th century, Nichiren Daishonin, and worship a sacred scroll, Gohonzon. The movement it has created, since its origin in the postwar disillusionment, is highly disciplined and extremely activist. Its adherents include many workers, both blue and white collar, and the middle classes. It combines a strongly traditionalist approach to the family, which it makes the unit of its own organization, with a rather idealistic devotion to racial equality and pacifism. However, Soka Gakkai rejects asceticism, and the Gohonzon promises believers happiness and success in this life, in everything from winning a raise, to learning the piano, to curing diseases.

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